

solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor."

It is thus shown that the people not only threw off the British yoke, but declared their independence of all other governments, and asserted the great principles of popular sovereignty and democratic republican equality upon which the government was established. But, Mr. Speaker, the resolutions which I have just read do not furnish the only evidence that this restriction is incompatible with the principles of our government, and subversive of the objects contemplated by the framers of the constitution. I invite the attention of the Senate to the 1st, 2d, 3d and 21st sections of the declaration of rights, which read as follows :

1. "That all political power is vested in and derived from the *people* only.

2. "That the *people* of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal police and government thereof.

3. "That no man or set of men are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services.

21. "That a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty."

These sections from the declaration of rights, and which are declared to be a part of the constitution, show conclusively that the government was established by the people, in the exercise of that sovereign power which is "vested in and derived from the people only." It has not, and I presume will not, be denied by any Senator upon this floor, that the people had the right to frame a constitution and organize a government for themselves in 1776. They not only had the right, but in the exercise of that right, sent their representatives to the Congress that assembled in the town of Halifax, in 1776, which framed the constitution under which the government of North-Carolina was organized. That Congress not only framed the constitution, but left us a perpetual record of the *motives* by which they were actuated; the *reasons* by which they were influenced; the *authority* under which